

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY  
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, January 15, 2013 at 5:00 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

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**PRESENT:** Jim Haskins, Delores Pierce, Duane Pierce, John Walschinski, Carl Soderberg, Rosemary Desisles, Joe Witkowski, Sherry Steenbock  
**EXCUSED:** Donald Bettine

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**\*\*Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1417**

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**1. Call Meeting to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by CVSO Jerry Polus at 5:05 p.m.

**2. Invocation by Jim Haskins.**

**3. Approve/Modify Agenda.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY JIM HASKINS, SECONDED BY SHERRY STEENBOCK TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**4. Approve/Modify Minutes of December 18, 2012.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY DUANE PIERCE, SECONDED BY JOHN WALSCHINSKI TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**5. Brown County Fair – 2013 Veterans Appreciation Day Discussion (August 14-18, 2013).**

Jerry Polus indicated that the Brown County Fair is scheduled for August 14 – 18, 2013. A request has been made of the Air Force Band of Mid America or one of their other bands to perform at the Military Appreciation Day event and Polus will let this group know of their availability as soon as he hears which he hopes will be within the next month. Alternatively, the Allouez Village Band may be asked to perform if the Air Force Band is unavailable. Sherry Steenbock made a suggestion that whatever band is chosen be requested to play some patriotic music and she felt that many veterans would feel the same way. Joe Witkowski agreed.

Polus continued that another thing to start thinking about is who would be able to act as emcee for the ceremony. Consideration will also need to be given to the format of the event and whether it should be organized the same as last year with the veterans' groups setting up booths in the tent. This seemed to work very well and was well received so this may be the way to go for this year also. Duane Pierce also indicated that Rolling Thunder has indicated that they wish to do their table ceremony again.

Polus asked what else we should be thinking about and Jim Haskins mentioned contacting John Maino to obtain some prizes for the event. Polus asked the Subcommittee to think of any ideas to improve on last year's event and bring them to the next meeting for further discussion and consideration.

**6. Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.**

Polus provided an update on Veterans Treatment Court and stated that there are currently ten people coming to court along with five or six others pending. Court staff

continues to meet on Fridays at noon and court is then held Friday afternoons before Judge Kelley at 3:00 p.m. Polus also reported that the Veterans' Court team will be attending a grant funded week long training session in Buffalo, New York in May. Polus stated that Buffalo is recognized as one of three major veterans' treatment courts in the US and Brown County has been selected as one of 30 groups to participate in the training program.

Joe Witkowski asked if this was a Court to prosecute or a court to give counsel and Polus responded that it is a court where judgment is deferred. It is an 18 month program with four phases and if a vet completes the program successfully the judgment would be deferred. The idea is to try to keep them out of jail and rehabilitate them and provide them with services they are in need of. Each vet in the program is assigned a mentor to assist them and there is very strict criteria that has to be met. This is proving to be a very successful program.

Polus continued his report by stating that his office is now back to full staff and he felt that 2013 will be a busy year for them in light of all of the vets returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan.

With regard to the Veterans Clinic, Polus stated that the latest update is that they are scheduled to take over the clinic building in June and start seeing patients in August, 2013. In terms of open positions, Polus stated that they will begin advertising positions in the very near future on the clinic website.

## **7. Report from Committee Members Present.**

-Rosemary Desisles – reported that a fundraiser will be held on March 10 at the Four Way Bar (formerly Charneski's) for two veterans who have passed. One is Chad Milquet who was killed in action and the funds raised for him will go towards schooling for veterans. The second vet is David Rasmussen, and the money raised in his name will be given to a hospice which is dedicated to veterans only. Pierce stated that the Desert Vets would most likely be heavily involved in this fundraiser as Rasmussen was one of the founding members and they also were involved in helping Milquet's family. More information on this event can be obtained from the Desert Vets. Telephone numbers are available in the County Board office.

Desisles continued her report that she had received information from Mike Egan that the National Labor Exchange Military Online Career Fair will be held on January 17, 2013 hosted by Direct Employers Association and National Association of State Workforce Agencies. Veterans will be able to chat with recruiters from companies representing Fortune 1000 corporations and smaller employers that are actively seeking candidates from the military and veteran community.

-Jim Haskins – reported that he had recently watched a documentary entitled *Inside the Vietnam War* on the History Channel. He stated that although it was very graphic, it was also very good.

Haskins also reported that he had recently seen a story in the news that Walmart will be hiring 100,000 veterans over the next five years.

-Duane Pierce – did not have anything to report.

-Sherry Steenbock – reported that 10 new certificates have been mailed out this month.

-John Walschinski – provided an update on the veteran's memorial being built in Howard. He stated that they are currently working with a professional fundraiser to raise funds for the memorial. They also continue to fine-tune the final design with the architects. They would like to break ground on this this year and he will keep the Subcommittee advised.

-Joe Witkowski – reported that on Monday, January 14, 2013 the National Guard 1157<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company returned to the United States after nine months in Afghanistan. Field Representative Carl Soderberg stated that a welcome home ceremony will be held in Oshkosh towards the end of the week. Witkowski continued that in the Monday, January 14 *Green Bay Press Gazette* there was an article that Schneider National Transportation was named to the 2013 GI Jobs Top 100 Military Friendly employers list for the seventh consecutive year. Schneider was ranked 12<sup>th</sup> and was recognized for programs offered to past and present military personnel. Witkowski felt this Subcommittee should send a thank you note to Schneider for this and if the Subcommittee will not be doing this, then he will do it personally. A discussion was held and it was decided to have further discussion at the next meeting as to what this Subcommittee can do to recognize military friendly employers in the area. Witkowski also had several more articles from the newspaper and one indicated that veterans face confusion at using the GI bills at state schools. In regard to this, Polus stated that his staff recently had a joint meeting with all area colleges as a means of improving communication and understanding of educational benefits. Witkowski concluded his report by thanking Sherry Steenbock for the Veterans Day card he received from her.

Carl Soderberg stated that they have had a number of people contact Congressman Reid Ribble, especially from UW Oshkosh, in terms of delays of benefits and he felt that this is a result of the number of applications pending.

-Carl Soderberg - stated that he is trying to get to all the area Legion and VFW Posts and other organizations in the area. The other thing he wished to share with the Subcommittee is that it had been brought to his attention that there have been changes to the Tri Care package and he is getting himself up to speed on this and will continue to provide updates.

**8. Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.**

None

**9. Adjourn.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY JIM HASKINS, SECONDED BY DUANE PIERCE TO  
ADJOURN AT 5:39 P.M. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio  
Recording Secretary